

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Todd Stroger

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Stroger, Todd Herman, 1963-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Todd Stroger,
Dates:	May 19, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:29:53).
Abstract:	City alderman and state representative The Honorable Todd Stroger (1963 -) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1992, and served as Chairperson of the Labor & Commerce Committee. In 2006, Stroger replaced his father, John Stroger, as Cook County Board president. Stroger was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 19, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_061
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Todd Herman Stroger was born on January 14, 1963, in Chicago, Illinois. The son of the late Cook County Board President John Stroger, Todd was introduced to politics at an early age. He attended St. Felicitous Elementary School and St. Ignatius College Preparatory. After graduating from St. Ignatius in 1981, Stroger spent a year at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a semester at the Illinois Institute of Technology before transferring to his father's alma mater, Xavier University, in New Orleans. At Xavier, Stroger majored in history. It was here that he also met his future wife, the former Jeanine Baddoo. They have one son, Hans Eric, named after Stroger's late brother.

Upon graduation, Stroger returned to Chicago, working at the Water Reclamation District and the Circuit Court of Cook County before pursuing a career in investment banking. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1992. As a member of the Illinois General Assembly, Stroger served as Chairperson of the Labor & Commerce Committee. He also served on committees dealing with computer technology, insurance and the environment. Among the bills he sponsored was one that would allow college teaching assistants and graduate assistants to form unions.

In 2006 Stroger's father, John Stroger resigned from his post as Cook County Board president due to health reasons. The Cook County Democratic Central Committee chose Stroger to replace his father and run for board president. Stroger won the election against Tony Peraica on November 7, 2006.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Todd Stroger was conducted by Adele Hodge on May 19,

2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. City alderman and state representative The Honorable Todd Stroger (1963 -) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1992, and served as Chairperson of the Labor & Commerce Committee. In 2006, Stroger replaced his father, John Stroger, as Cook County Board president.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Stroger, Todd Herman, 1963-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Haynes, Frank (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Stroger, Todd Herman, 1963---Interviews

African American legislators--Illinois--Interviews

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews

City council members--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Chicago (Ill.)

Illinois

Occupations:

City Alderman

State Representative

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Todd Stroger, May 19, 2000. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Todd Stroger, Section A2000_061_001_001, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

Todd Stroger talks about his family history. His mother, Yonnie Batchlor, was born to Grady and Flora Batchlor, and ran the Stroger household while raising three children. His father, John Stroger, Jr., was born to John and Ella Stroger in 1929. Growing up with a politician father, Stroger recalls attending cocktail parties and admiring his father's resilience in the face of electoral defeat. After attending St. Ignatius College Prep High School in Chicago, Illinois, Stroger briefly attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the Illinois Institute of Technology before transferring to Xavier University in New Orleans where he graduated from in 1988. Stroger held positions at the Domestic Relations Circuit Court of Cook County and the Jury Commission before running for elected office.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African Americans--Politics and Government.

African Americans--Illinois--Interviews.

African Americans--Education (Elementary).

African Americans--Education (Higher).

African American Catholics.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Todd Stroger, Section A2000_061_001_002, TRT: 0:30:31 ?

Todd Stroger talks about how his brother's sudden death from asthma profoundly affected him and his family. After winning election as an Illinois State Representative in 1993, Stroger championed education and the prevention of illegal 'fly' dumping. Stroger attributes his political success to being part of an established political family, a familiarity with parliamentary procedure, and an understated, yet direct personality. Unlike his father, John Stroger, Jr., who had a more aggressive style, Stroger views politics as a part-time job and gives equal importance to work, family, and politics. Stroger details the process of passing a bill in the Illinois State Legislature.

African American families--Death.

African American families.

African Americans--Politics and Government.

African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African American--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Todd Stroger, Section A2000_061_001_003, TRT: 0:28:42 ?

Todd Stroger wants to be remembered as someone who helped others. Understanding the tenuous nature of politics, Stroger learned that black politicians have to be more aggressive in order to be effective in the legislature. While he is proud of the African Americans who served before him in the Illinois State Legislature and the accomplishments of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, he remains disheartened by the growing racial disparities in poverty. Stroger reflects on his marriage and tells the story of how he named his son Hans Eric in honor of his deceased brother.

African Americans--Marriage.

Segregation.

Race relations

Illinois--Officials and employees.

African American politicians.

Partee, Cecil A., 1921-

Washington, Harold, 1922-1987.

Braun, Carol Moseley-, 1947